

been leading the government, seems to have lost some ground. A coalition government will need to be formed.

That brings substantial power to the regional parties in the various states and regions of the country. These parties could well control who runs the Indian government. The Council of Khalistan called on these regional parties to band together in a "freedom bloc" to unite for freedom and self-determination for all of the minorities of South Asia.

The open letter notes that both the BJP and the rival Congress Party are dangerous to the freedom of the Sikhs and other minorities, and the regional Akali Dal is in coalition with the BJP. The Akali leaders invited the Congress Party government of Indira Gandhi to invade the Golden Temple, the seat of the Sikh religion, and they surrendered quickly when the attack came.

This letter points out these and other reasons why it is important to use these elections as a springboard to achieve freedom for Khalistan and the other nations seeking to free themselves of Indian rule.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the brutality of India's suppression of these freedom movements. They have murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens of thousands of other minorities. Now, according to the Tribune of Chandigarh, the Indian government is demanding that the government of Punjab pay them back for the costs accrued in suppressing the Sikhs.

This is outrageous, Mr. Speaker. As the beacon of freedom, the United States must be strong against this kind of repression. We should stop all American aid to India until it stops the repression and allows all people within its borders to enjoy their most basic human rights fully. And we should put this Congress on record as supporting self-determination for the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the other people seeking freedom from India's brutal rule.

The right to self-determination is the essence of democracy, Mr. Speaker. The lack of self-determination and the repression show that India's claim to be a democracy is fake. It is time for us to take a stand on behalf of freedom for all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's open letter into the RECORD at this time.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SIKH NATION,
April 27, 2004.

Elections in Punjab have been set for May 10. Elections under the Indian Constitution will not free the Sikh Nation. Use this opportunity, however, to elect committed, hottest Sikhs who are committed to freeing Khalistan to Parliament.

These elections will certainly result in a hung Parliament. No party is capable of putting together the national majority needed to control Parliament on its own. A coalition government will be formed. The regional parties will be very important in deciding who will control the government. This gives the regional parties and the regions they represent enormous power. We must use this power to our benefit. It is time for the regional parties to form a "freedom bloc" to work together for freedom for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the minority nations seeking their freedom from India's bru-

tal rule. We agree with L.K. Advani when he said, "When Kashmir goes, India goes." By securing freedom for any of the captive nations of South Asia, we bring about freedom for all of us. Working together in a common, unified effort will hasten that day for everyone.

Congress and the BJP are both the enemies of the Sikh Nation. They both watch out for the interests of the Hindu majority at the expense of the Sikh Nation and other minorities. The BJP has murdered Muslims in Gujarat, in Kashmir, and elsewhere and Christians in Nagaland and throughout India. They have forcibly reconverted Christians back to Hinduism. They preach Hindutva (total Hindu control of the culture and society) and openly preach that if you live in India, you must either be Hindu or be subservient to Hinduism.

The Congress Party attacked the Golden Temple, the most sacred shrine of the Sikh Nation, 125 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab. Over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in those attacks, known as Operation Bluestar, including Sant Jamail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and over 100 Sikh religious students ages 8-13 who were taken out into the courtyard and shot. The BJP congratulated Indira Gandhi on the attack and said it should have been done earlier.

These attacks accelerated the Sikh independence movement and deepened the desire for independence in the hearts of Sikhs, a fire that burns brightly in the hearts of the Sikh Nation to this day. Sant Bhindranwale said that the attack on the Golden Temple would "lay the foundation stone of Khalistan" and he was right. Late in 2003, former Member of Parliament Atinder Pal Singh organized a seminar on Khalistan at Baba Makhana Shah Labana Hall, Sector 30, Chandigarh. This shows that the flame of freedom is still burning in the hearts of Sikhs. Sikhs can never forgive or forget the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple. It is time to take action to free our homeland.

The Badal Akalis are totally controlled by their coalition partners, the BJP. Chief Minister Captain Anarinder Singh is in bed with the Congress Party. He honored the former Chief Minister, Beant Singh, who is responsible for the mass murder of hundreds of thousands of Sildis and gave over 41,000 cash bounties to police officials for killing Sikhs. Neither will protect the interests of the Sikh Nation. They have undermined Sikh character and Sikh values. Simply by joining the Congress Party, Captain Amarinder Singh is undermining Sikh values. Badal, Tobra, and Longowal said that India would have to get to the Golden Temple by rolling tanks over their dead bodies, then quickly surrendered. The Akalis invited the Indian Army to the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and so many other committed Sikhs.

Do not support Badal or the Akalis. The Badal government was the most corrupt government in the history of Punjab. They sold jobs for a fixed fee. They came up with a new, dignified term for bribery: "fee for service." If you didn't pay the fee, you didn't get the service. Badal's wife was so experienced that she could pick up a bag of money and tell how much money was in it. Parkash Singh Badal was a disaster for Punjab and a disgrace to the Sikh Nation. Yet the Akali Dal continues to support Badal, even though he was prosecuted and jailed for his corruption. What has happened to the character of the present-day Akalis? They are defaming

the name of the pre-partition pious Akalis who suffered and sacrificed for the cause of the Khalsa Panth.

Not even a single Akali protested the unprecedented corruption of Badal. According to India-West, the Punjab Vigilance Bureau carried out raids on Badal's properties for several months and filed a charge-sheet in a local court charging Mr. Badal with siphoning off Rs. 784 million, the equivalent of \$17 million in U.S. money, during his five years as chief minister. The article says that Mr. Badal and his family hold assets of Rs. 4326 crores (nearly \$1 billion), most of which are located outside India. Half the population of India lives below the international poverty line. About 40 percent live on less than \$2 per day.

Lalit Mansingh, the outgoing Indian Ambassador to the United States, has said, "There is no India without Sikhs and no Sikhs without India." He is wrong. The Sikh Nation has survived perfectly fine without India. Before there was an India, Sikhs flourished. The Sikhs ruled Punjab as an independent country from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849. Sikhs stopped the invasion from the West, annexed Kashmir from the Afghans, and occupied Kabul for a short period.

Remember the words of Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, during the celebration of Guru Nanak's birthday: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." He was only reiterating the Guru's blessing, "In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi." The time to achieve our independence is now.

The opportunity these elections provide must be used to liberate our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian oppression. We must choose leaders who will work for freedom for the Sikh Nation. Remember, you get what you vote for. Always remember our heritage: Raj Kare Ga Khalsa; Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah. Freedom for Khalistan is very close. Let us take this opportunity to make it happen.

Panth Da Sewadar,
DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

REMEMBERING DR. JAMES E.
HAYES

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to an esteemed physician and administrator from the Fourth Congressional District of Texas, Dr. James E. Hayes, who died recently at the young age of 49 of multiple myeloma. Dr. Hayes was nationally renowned as an effective and innovative emergency room physician and administrator during his twenty-two year career.

Jim Hayes was born in Sherman, Texas, and graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1972 and Grayson County College in 1973. He received his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University in 1976, graduating summa cum laude, and received his medical degree from Southwestern Medical School 4 years later.

Jim dedicated his career to serving the healthcare needs of the citizens of North Texas. He began as a staff emergency physician in 1981 at Methodist Medical Center, where he was named associate medical director of emergency services. In 1991, while at Methodist, he was named medical director for CareFlite Dallas.

He left Methodist in 1992 to become chairman of the emergency medicine division of the department of surgery at UT Southwestern. At the same time he served as director of the Poison Control Center and director of emergency services at Parkland Memorial Hospital. In 1997, in recognition of his years of outstanding leadership and service, he was named to the Riggs Family Chair in Emergency Medicine at UT Southwestern.

In 1999 Jim joined EMCare, a Dallas-based emergency department management company, as the chief of medical affairs and served in that capacity until September, 2003, when he left EMCare for medical reasons. In October, as a testament to his many contributions to his profession, he received the James D. Mills Award for Outstanding Contributions to Emergency Medicine from the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Dr. Jim Hayes will be long remembered as a dedicated physician, talented administrator and emergency room innovator. The citizens of North Texas have lost a valuable asset and a good friend, and we send our heartfelt condolences to his family—mother, Helen Acker Hayes of Whitesboro; brother, Bill Hayes of Whitesboro; and sister, Diane Hayes Gibson of Sherman.

I have lost a great personal friend—one I could always rely on for advice and direction regarding any pending health issues. He was a kind and valuable friend—and the world is better off because he walked this way. Jim had unquestioned ethics, determined loyalty to his patients, and was pure class in all of his dealings with those of us who loved and admired him.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, I want to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay our respects to this dedicated physician, esteemed citizen and my good friend—Dr. James E. Hayes.

HONORING JOHN JERMANIS, SAN
LEANDRO CITY MANAGER
EXTRAORDINAIRE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Jermanis, City Manager of San Leandro, California. This year, John is marking 35 years of outstanding service in municipal government.

John was born and raised in Berkeley, California. He attended Berkeley High School, received his bachelor's degree in business administration from San Francisco State University, and has done graduate studies in public administration with California State University Hayward.

He began his municipal government service in 1969 as an accountant with the city of Livermore. In 1971, John was hired by the city of San Leandro as assistant Finance Director

and has been with the city for 33 years. In 1982, he became the City's Finance Director, and in 1977, he was appointed by the City Council as City Manager.

John has a proven track record with the city of San Leandro that is hard to beat. His professionalism, intellect, and commitment to the city are exemplary. He is focused on making sure San Leandro stays on sound fiscal footing and is responsive to the needs of its citizens.

His colleagues know John Jermanis as City Manager Extraordinaire. This is a fitting description of his talent and a tribute to his expertise in city management.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICERS ME-
MORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives will overwhelmingly support H. Res. 622, a resolution that pays tribute to Peace Officers Memorial Day, which takes place on May 15th, and honors those law enforcement officers who have died or become disabled in the line of duty. As a former officer with the Michigan State Police and Escanaba City Police Department as well as founder and co-chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus, I am a proud co-sponsor of this Resolution and want to thank my colleague Mr. HEFLEY for co-sponsoring it again this year.

Since September 11, 2001, many in this Nation and this Congress have come to recognize the importance of the sacrifices made by our law enforcement officers. Every day these men and women protect and serve, often putting their own lives at risk.

Peace Officers Memorial Day brings us together in honoring the sacrifice our Nation's law enforcement and public safety officers make to our communities and our Nation every day.

This sacrifice was all too clearly demonstrated in Detroit, Michigan this year. Jennifer Fettig, a 26-year-old Detroit Police Officer and her 21-year-old partner, were killed in February during a traffic stop. This tragic killing illustrates the danger our law enforcement officers face daily not only during crisis situations, but while performing routine duties.

I think it is important as we discuss and pass this resolution that we must also resolve to provide our public safety officers the resources they need to meet the daily challenges of their jobs—especially at a time when we have placed greater demands on them to fight and prevent terrorist threats. We can do that by fully funding important grant programs such as COPS, Byrne, and LLEBG.

That also includes providing assistance to help regional law enforcement and first responders talk to each other in times of emergency. My bill, H.R. 3370, The Public Safety interoperability Act, would provide grants to local law enforcement agencies to modernize their communication systems and become interoperable. These are the kinds of resources and tools I'm talking about. We need to do everything possible to ensure that our

law enforcement officers are fully interoperable.

I am hopeful that my colleagues will follow up on their support of this resolution, and continue our commitment to law enforcement by supporting these important funding needs. It is the least we can do for those who put their lives on the line for us every day.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILL"
DONOVAN FOR 25 YEARS OF
SERVICE WITH NAFCU

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize my friend and a true public servant William "Bill" Donovan for 25 years of service here in Washington with the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). I know that many of my colleagues here today—both past and present—have had the opportunity to meet and work with Bill, and I hope they have enjoyed that opportunity as much as I.

Bill currently serves as the Senior Vice President and General Counsel for NAFCU. I came to know Bill early in my career as he and I and my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. KANJORSKI, worked for the passage of the Credit Union Membership Access Act in 1998. Following the passage of that historic legislation, Bill delivered a picture to my office with my head mounted on Mount Rushmore. Looking back at those years, it should have been Bill's head mounted on Mount Rushmore instead of mine, as no one was more instrumental in making sure that legislation passed than Bill Donovan.

In his 25 years of service to NAFCU, Mr. Donovan has been a tireless advocate and a leading voice for the credit union community on Capitol Hill. Just as amazing as his work for NAFCU is his commitment to family-life outside of work. Mr. Donovan and his wife Donna have seven children, and he has remained an active member of his church for many years.

I congratulate Bill on all of his fine work throughout his illustrious 25 years at NAFCU. I have enjoyed working with him on issues that are important to the credit union community, and I look forward to continuing to do so in the future. Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary at NAFCU, Mr. Donovan.

HONORING U.S. ARMY PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS SHAWN C. EDWARDS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Army Private First Class Shawn C. Edwards, of Bensenville, Illinois. PFC Edwards was killed on April 23, 2004 when his convoy hit a roadside bomb in Samarra, Iraq. He had been serving in Iraq since February.

PFC Edwards was a junior in high school when he made the adult decision to enlist in the U.S. Army. He told his father he could use